

PATENT APPLICATION

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method for facilitating the management of a communication network asset item,
2 comprising:
3 assigning system-readable identification to an asset item of a communication
4 network;
5 receiving, at a physical asset manager, said system-readable identification of the
6 asset item in response to installing the asset item in the communication network; and
7 creating an informational link between an on-line sub-object of the asset item and
8 an off-line sub-object of the asset item, wherein said system-readable identification
9 enables the physical asset manager to create the informational link between the on-line
10 sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset item.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein:
2 assigning said system-readable identification to the asset item includes assigning a
3 serial number and a part number to the asset item; and
4 receiving said system-readable identification includes receiving the serial number
5 and the part number.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein assigning said system-readable identification to the
2 asset item includes retrievably storing said system readable identification on an
3 electronic element of the asset item.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein installing the asset item includes performing an
2 installation operation, wherein the asset item is moved from an in-repair sub-state of
3 an un-installed state to an installed state.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 performing a de-installation operation prior to performing the installation
3 operation, wherein the asset item is moved from the installed state to the in-repair sub-
4 state of the un-installed state.

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- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein installing the asset item includes performing an
2 installation operation wherein the asset item is moved from an in-stock sub-state of an
3 un-installed state to an installed state.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
2 performing a de-installation operation prior to performing the installation
3 operation, wherein the asset item is moved from the installed state to the in-stock sub-
4 state of the un-installed state.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein creating the informational link includes retrieving the
2 on-line sub-object of the asset item in an on-line persistent asset database and
3 retrieving the off-line sub-object of the asset item in an off-line asset inventory
4 database.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein retrieving the on-line sub-object of the asset item
2 includes accessing the on-line persistent asset database via a network resource
3 inventory server.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein creating the informational link includes performing an
2 informational binding operation for associating information retrievable from an on-line
3 persistent asset database with corresponding information retrievable from an off-line
4 asset inventory database.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the informational binding operation is performed in
2 response to the physical asset manager receiving said system-readable identification.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein receiving said system-readable identification includes
2 receiving a serial number and a part number stored on an electronic element of the
3 asset item.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

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2 automatically accessing the serial number and the part number on the electronic
3 element of the asset item when the asset item is installed in the communication
4 network.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 enabling the display of a physical asset management view of an object
3 corresponding to the asset item in response to creating the informational link, wherein
4 the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset item are
5 capable of being integrally viewed in the physical asset management view.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein enabling the display of the physical asset
2 management view includes integrating information separately viewable in an on-line
3 inventory sub-object view and in an off-line inventory sub-object view.

1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 setting a spare parts threshold level associated with the asset item;
3 activating a spare parts support object associated with the off-line sub-object of the
4 asset item; and
5 issuing a spare parts notification when the spare parts threshold level exceeds a
6 spare parts instance of the asset item.

1 17. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 preparing network planning information after creating the informational link.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein preparing said network planning information includes
2 preparing a statistical report.

1 19. The method of claim 17 wherein preparing said network planning information includes
2 preparing an inventory report.

1 20. A method for facilitating the management of a communication network asset item,
2 comprising:
3 assigning a serial number and a part number to an asset item of a communication
4 network, wherein the serial number and the part number are electronically stored on an
5 electronic element of the asset;
6 receiving, at a physical asset manager, the serial number and the part number of the
7 asset item to a physical asset manager in response to installing the asset item in the
8 communication network;
9 performing an informational binding operation for associating information
10 retrievable from an on-line persistent asset database with corresponding information
11 retrievable from an off-line asset inventory database, wherein said system-readable
12 identification enables the physical asset manager to create an informational link
13 between the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset
14 item;
15 enabling the display of a physical asset management view of an object
16 corresponding to the asset item in response to creating the informational link, wherein
17 the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset item are
18 capable of being integrally viewed in the physical asset management view; and
19 preparing network planning information after creating the informational link.

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1 21. An apparatus for facilitating the management of a communication network asset item,
2 comprising:

3 a physical asset management system including a physical asset manager connected
4 to an on-line persistent asset database, to an off-line asset inventory database and to a
5 communication network, and wherein the physical asset management system is
6 capable of:

7 receiving system-readable identification of an asset item in response
8 to installing the asset item in a communication network; and

9 creating an informational link between an on-line sub-object of the
10 asset item and an off-line sub-object of the asset item, wherein said system-
11 readable identification enables the physical asset manager to create the
12 informational link between the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the
13 off-line sub-object of the asset item.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the physical asset manager includes a physical asset
2 server and a physical asset management application installed on the physical asset
3 server.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein receiving said system-readable identification
2 includes receiving a serial number of the asset item and a part number of the asset
3 item.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the asset item includes an electronic element and
2 the asset item is electrically connected to the communication network for enabling said
3 system-readable identification to be received from an electronic element of the asset
4 item by the physical asset manager.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the physical asset management system includes a
2 network resource inventory server connected between the physical asset manager and
3 the on-line persistent asset database for enabling the on-line persistent asset database
4 to be accessed via the physical asset manager.

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- 1 26. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the physical asset management system includes a
2 network resource inventory server connected between the physical asset manager and
3 the on-line persistent asset database thus enabling an informational binding operation
4 to be performed for creating the informational link whereby information retrievable
5 from an on-line persistent asset database is associated with corresponding information
6 retrievable from an off-line asset inventory database.
- 1 27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the informational binding operation is performed in
2 response to the physical asset management system receiving said system-readable
3 identification when the asset item is installed in the communication network.
- 1 28. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the physical asset management system is further
2 capable of:
3 enabling the display of a physical asset management view of an object
4 corresponding to the asset item in response to creating the informational link, the on-
5 line sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset item are
6 capable of being integrally viewed in the physical asset management view.
- 1 29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein enabling the display of the physical asset
2 management view includes integrating information separately viewable in an on-line
3 inventory sub-object view and in an off-line inventory sub-object view.
- 1 30. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:
2 preparing network planning information after creating the informational link.
- 1 31. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein preparing said network planning information
2 includes preparing a statistical report.
- 1 32. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein preparing said network planning information
2 includes preparing an inventory report.

1 33. An apparatus for facilitating the management of a communication network asset item,
2 comprising:

3 a physical asset management system including a physical asset manager connected
4 to an on-line persistent asset database through a network resource inventory server, to
5 an off-line asset inventory database and to a communication network through the
6 network resource inventory server, the physical asset manager including a physical
7 asset server and a physical asset management application installed on the physical
8 asset server, and wherein the physical asset management system is capable of:

9 receiving a system-readable serial number and a system-readable
10 part number from an electronic element of the asset item in response to
11 installing the asset item in a communication network;

12 performing an informational binding operation for creating an
13 informational link between an on-line sub-object of the asset item and an
14 off-line sub-object of the asset item whereby information retrievable from
15 the on-line persistent asset database is associated with corresponding
16 information retrievable from the off-line asset inventory database, wherein
17 said system-readable serial number and the system-readable part number
18 enable the physical asset manager to create the informational link between
19 the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the
20 asset item;

21 enabling the display of a physical asset management view of an
22 object corresponding to the asset item in response to creating the
23 informational link, wherein the on-line sub-object of the asset item and the
24 off-line sub-object of the asset item are capable of being integrally viewed
25 in the physical asset management view; and

26 preparing network planning information after creating the
27 informational link.

1 34. A computer program product, comprising:
2 a computer program processable by a physical asset server of a physical asset
3 manager; and
4 an apparatus from which the computer program is accessible by the physical asset
5 server;
6 the computer program enabling the physical asset server to:
7 receive system-readable identification of an asset item in
8 response to installing the asset item in a communication network;
9 create an informational link between an on-line sub-object
10 of the asset item and an off-line sub-object of the asset item,
11 wherein said system-readable identification enables the physical
12 asset manager to create the informational link between the on-line
13 sub-object of the asset item and the off-line sub-object of the asset
14 item;
15 enable the display of a physical asset management view of
16 an object corresponding to the asset item in response to creating the
17 informational link, wherein the on-line sub-object of the asset item
18 and the off-line sub-object of the asset item are capable of being
19 integrally viewed in the physical asset management view; and
20 prepare network planning information after creating the
21 informational link.